IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 27 and 45-47 as indicated below. Please cancel claims 42-44 and 48. The pending claims are believed to be as follows:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein said natural tissue comprises a biological tissue or a matrix derived from a biological tissue.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein said natural tissue comprises pericardium tissue.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein said natural tissue comprises small intestine submucosa.

20-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of augmenting the nucleus of an intervertebral disc, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) implanting in the intervertebral disc an intervertebral disc device comprising a length of braided natural tissue sized for introduction into an intervertebral disc nucleus space, wherein said length of natural tissue has a first, straightened configuration and a second, folded configuration having a multiplicity of folds, wherein said first, straightened configuration presents a first cross-sectional size and said second, folded configuration presents a second cross-sectional size, wherein said first cross-sectional size is smaller than said second cross-sectional size; wherein said device additionally comprises a drawstring effective for folding said length of natural tissue to its second, folded configuration after implantation of the tissue in a disc nucleus space; and

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(b) pulling the drawstring to fold the length of natural tissue <u>to its second, folded</u>

<u>configuration having a multiplicity of folds</u>.

28-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Presently amended) The ~~device~~ <u>method</u> of claim ~~42~~ <u>27</u> wherein said

drawstring passes through the braided implant at a multiplicity of sites throughout the

length of the implant, with said multiplicity being at least three sites.

46. (Presently amended) The ~~device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 45 wherein said drawstring

passes through at least five sites.

47. (Presently amended) The ~~device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 46 wherein said drawstring

passes through at least ten sites.

48. (Cancelled)